

Dear Environmental Justice Committee,

My name is Robina Suwol. I am Executive Director of California Safe Schools, a Coalition of forty organizations, and countless individuals who worked with Los Angeles Unified School District, (2nd largest school district in the nation), to create our current Los Angeles Unified School District, Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program. Our IPM policy embraces the \_Precautionary Principle, includes \_Parents Right To Know, and to ensure implementation a 15 member Pest Management Team meets monthly. This successful policy has become the model for school districts and communities throughout the United States.

I had the privilege to attend, and comment during your open meeting process. I appreciated your selecting numerous locations, and allowing community members to participate.

At a Sacramento meeting, I addressed the following:

- 1) Inequity in the Department of Pesticide Regulations policy regarding Diazinon. As you are aware, this product no longer is permitted in homes, and schools, due to it\_s high toxicity, yet continues to be permitted in fields exposing farmworkers!
- 2) I asked DPR\_s suggested procedures for disposing Diazinon since the department acknowledges it\_s a neurotoxin. Agency response: Continue using until supply is depleted.
- 3) Children\_s exposure levels are based on a 180 pound male.

I believe your policy recommendations will address the above issues, create guidelines for toxic exposure, and ultimately ensure protection for all California Citizens, including our most vulnerable - children!

My sincere congratulations on your hard work and commitment. I look forward to celebrating the adoption of your national model.

Respectfully,

Robina Suwol  
Executive Director  
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